(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) if so, the details of the mandate of NSSF;

(d) what would be the linkages of the new foundation with the existing network of the research institutions in science and social science; and

(e) in what manner Government propose to avoid overlap in mandates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Government has received the Report of the National Knowledge Commission (NKC) on "National Science and Social Science Foundation" which has been sent to the Department of Science & Technology and Higher Education for their comments.

(c) The objectives of the National Science and Social Science Foundation as proposed by National Knowledge Commission are:

* Suggest policy initiatives to make India a leader in the creation and use of new knowledge in all areas of natural, physical, agricultural, health, and social sciences, with an emphasis on those areas which cut across traditional disciplines;
* Ensure that science and technology are maximally used for betterment of the lives of our people;
* Develop a scientific temper.

(d) and (e) The decision of the Government of India would take into account these issues.

Issuance of OCI cards

†*246. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BALAPTE:
SHRI VINAY KATIYAR:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of OCI cards issued as on date under the Overseas Citizenship of India Scheme;

(b) the details thereof, country-wise;

(c) whether Government are planning to formulate any scheme to give special facilities to the OCI card holders; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (d) The Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) Scheme was launched during the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2006 at Hyderabad in January, 2006. The facility of Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) is given to Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) of all countries [who were citizens of India or eligible to become citizens of India on 26th January, 1950 and are citizens of the countries (except Pakistan and Bangladesh). As on 10 March, 2007, 1,06,945 OCI documents have been issued to overseas Indians. Country-wise details are placed at Statement. (*See* below)

Registered OCIs are entitled for life-long, multi-purpose, multi-entry visa to visit India. They are also treated at par with Non-Resident Indians in the matter of inter-country adoption of Indian children; with resident Indian nationals in the matter of tariffs in air fares in domestic sectors; and are charged same entry fees as domestic Indian visitors to visit national parks and wildlife sanctuaries in India.

OCI cards holders have been requesting some additional benefits as available to citizens of India. Government is presently examining these requests and would take a view shortly.

Statement

Details of OCI documents issued as on 10 March, 2007

Sl. No.	Name of country	City	No. of OCI Document Issued
1	2	3	4
1.	Canada	Vancouver	1726
2.	Canada	Toronto	7625
3.	Canada	Ottawa	727
4.	Australia	Canberra	5092
5.	Australia	Sydney	7482
6.	Australia	Melbourn	126
7.	USA	Washington	4600
8.	USA	San Francisco	12787
9.	USA	New York	16312
10.	USA	Chicago	6342
11.	USA	Houston	7938

1	2	3	4
12.	New Zealand	Wellington	4264
13.	Philippines	Manila	79
14.	Seychelles	Mahe	249
15.	Srilanka	Kandy	787
16.	Srilanka	Colombo	5545
17.	UAE	Dubai	499
18.	UAE	Abu Dhabi	101
19.	UK	London	7932
20.	UK	Birmingham	1733
21.	UK	Edinburgh	322
22.	Switzerland	Geneva	241
23.	Switzerland	Berne	822
24.	Kenya	Nairobi	580
25.	Greece	Athens	26
26.	Italy	Rome	134
27.	Peru	Lima	12
28.	Israel	Tel Aviv	133
29.	Belgium	Brussels	918
30.	Bahrain	Bahrain	58
31.	Indonesia	Jakarta	27
32.	Madagascar	Antananarivo	55
33.	Ghana	Accra	16
34.	Germany	Munich	25
35.	Ireland	Dublin	239
36.	Sweden	Stockholm	296
37.	Hungary	Budapest	1
38.	Senegal	Dakar	8
39.	Korea (South)	Seoul	17
40.	France	Paris	300
41.	Japan	Tokyo	11
42.	China	Shanghai	13
43.	Saudi Arabia	Jeddah	16
44.	Saudi Arabia	Riyadh	72
45.	Nigeria	Lagos	11
46.	Bangladesh	Dhaka	7
47.	Mauritius	Port Louis	92
48.	Romania	Bucharest	2
49.	Portugal	Lisbon	32

1	2	3	4
50.	Cyprus	Nicosia	8
51.	Poland	Warsaw	15
52.	Czech	Prague	9
53.	Croatia	Zagreb	4
54.	Reunion Island	St. Denis	45
55.	Brunei	Dar-Us-Salam	4
56.	Venezuela	Caracas	148
57.	Kuwait	Kuwait	64
58.	Finland	Helsinki	62
59.	Trinidad & Tobago	Port of Spain	34
60.	Thailand	Bangkok	193
61.	South Africa	Durban	335
62.	Italy	Milan	76
63.	Oman	Muscat	28
64.	Japan	Kobe	6
65.	China	Hong Kong	126
66.	Mexico	Mexico City	19
67.	Nepal	Kathmandu	6
68.	Kazakstan	Almaty	7
69.	Singapore	Singapore	80
70.	Sudan	Khartoum	6
71.	Brazil	Brasilia	9
72.	Ivory Coast	Abidjan	2
73.	Slovakia	Bratislava	2
74.	Netherlands	The Hague	2
75.	Kenya	Mombasa	14
76.	Botswana	Goborone	38
77.	Egypt	Cairo	1
78.	Jamaica	Kingston	25
79.	Brazil	Sao Paulo	11
80.	Qatar	Doha	15
81.	Germany	Berlin	1
82.	Germany	Frankfurt	7
83.	Panama	Panama City	1
84.	India	MHA	9110
	TOTAL:		106945